

HISTORY 2520-080/088
(2023-24 Winter Session)
Social Outsiders in Nazi Europe

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VIRTUAL Office Hours: Tu & Thur 9:30-11 am & by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the experiences of groups categorized by the Nazis as social outsiders, including Jews, Sinti-Roma, Slavs, homosexuals, the disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, foreign workers, interracial couples, and labor and socialist activists. It analyzes the political, ideological, and cultural context leading to the suppression of "outsiders," including the Holocaust. The course considers sources of support for and resistance to Nazi policies in and outside Germany. It delves into complex moral issues and the nature of racism and prejudice in the modern era.

Course Objectives

1. To familiarize students with the history of the process of turning certain groups into social outsiders during the Nazi era by studying various policies and laws as well as the use of violence.
2. To understand and analyze primary sources and evaluate authorship, bias, context, & accuracy.
3. To develop students' familiarity with and ability to use various secondary sources.

1/4. Introduction & Syllabus (bb.wpunj.edu)

1. Go to the first DB forum, "Introduction," and follow the instructions there.
2. Read the syllabus (especially "Discussion Board Participation")

1/5-1/6 (Discussion #1). An Overview of the Holocaust

- Read, "Overview," pp. 83-109 (available under "Course Documents" in Blackboard)

1/8-1/9 (Reading Quiz #1). No discussion). Jews: Ghettos in Poland

- Read: Szpilman, pp. 51-75 (under "Course Documents")

1/9-1/10 Jews: The Wannsee Conference

- **Cinema Quiz # I.** Go to "Assignments." (No Discussion)
- Watch (movie): *Conspiracy* (2001; 95 min, Director Pierson)
 - https://primo.wpunj.edu/permalink/01WILLIAMPAT_INST/115j2bf/alma997532959005211

1/10-1/11 (Discussion #2). Jews: Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel in Auschwitz

- Read: Levi, pp. 19-27 (under "Course Documents")
- Read: Wiesel, pp. 29-42, 66-68 (under "Course Documents")

1/11-1/12 (Reading Quiz #2). The Handicapped and Euthanasia

- Read: "Handicapped" (under "Course Documents")

